

EPA Regs Cost Local Jobs

In May, PBS Coals in Somerset County laid off 134 workers in Southwestern Pennsylvania as the local economy faces the consequences of 140 rules and regulations on coal that have been proposed in the last four years.

The new regulations threaten to cost the economy 180,000 jobs each year and increase electric bills between 30 and 40% according to an analysis by National Economic Research Associates. The damage will be particularly severe in the region, which is home to the Pittsburgh Coal Seam, the most extensive coal bed in the Appalachian Basin.

More than 41,000 make a living from Pennsylvania coal, including at mines such as Bailey, Cumberland, Emerald, and Enlow Fork in Greene and Washington Counties. Along with related supply chain and service industries that employ machinists, haulers, and boilermakers, coal adds \$7.5 billion to the state’s economy and 44% of the state’s electricity to power homes and factories according to the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

To get to the bottom of the consequences of these rules, Oversight Chairman Tim Murphy has launched a review of the Environmental Protection Agency regulatory process, taking into account how these regulations will impact local jobs and the economy.

Along with pressing for advancement of clean coal technologies, Murphy sponsored the Coal Jobs Protection Act (HR 1829), to stop the EPA from retroactively denying mining permits and threatening thousands of jobs.

In other EPA news, Murphy is moving new legislation to protect homeowners from bearing the costly brunt of EPA overreach. An EPA paint dust regulation treats nearly every home renovation like a Superfund site, requiring giant tarps and plastic coverings for even simple window repairs. The regulations threaten homeowners with thousands of more dollars in overall cost without any benefit to health and safety of residents. Contractors in Southwestern Pennsylvania estimate the EPA rule increased the price of home renovations by 30 percent, with simple window replacement jobs increasing by \$1,500. As a result, many local homeowners aren’t moving forward with renovations because they don’t have the money to do all the unnecessary work the federal government is mandating them to do.

Murphy Energy Plan To Rebuild Roads

Pennsylvania motorists pay an extra \$1,800 annually because of congestion, vehicle wear and tear, and accidents caused by poor road conditions according to a new report by TRIP, a national transportation research group.

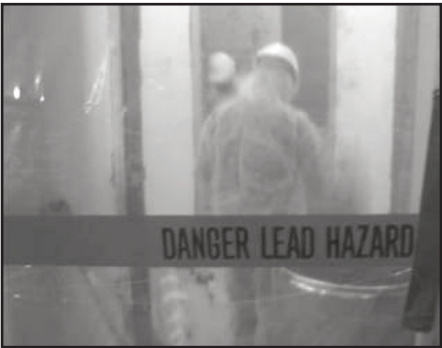
To bring the nation’s infrastructure into a state of good repair, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates \$2.2 trillion is needed. To pay for these public works projects without raising taxes, going into debt or borrowing from China, Rep. Murphy has reintroduced the Infrastructure Jobs and Energy Independence Act (HR 787).

The bill, which has the support of the American Iron and Steel Institute and toolbelt trade groups, expedites development of offshore energy resources, bringing in an estimated \$2.7 trillion in new federal revenue over 37 years according to the Institute for Energy Research. Some of these new monies are dedicated to slashing our deficit and rebuilding America’s aging locks, dams, roads, bridges, water, and sewer projects, putting millions to work in construction trades and saving drivers hundreds of dollars at the gas pump every year.

For more details, visit Murphy.House.Gov.

Rep. Murphy introduced the bipartisan Lead Exposure Reduction Amendments Act (H.R. 2093) to provide a much-needed legislative fix to EPA’s lead renovation, repair and painting rule. The bill already has more than 40 bipartisan cosponsors and is at the Energy and Commerce Committee awaiting review.

“The federal government monitoring how you paint your kitchen walls is straight out of the Twilight Zone. My bill protects children’s health without burdening homeowners and contractors with costly regulations that have little relevance in routine home repair and upkeep,” said Murphy.



Images show worksite conditions for simple home renovations under the EPA-mandated lead paint rule. Murphy’s bill corrects these burdensome and costly mandates while keeping homeowners safe.



Capitol Update

Official Report for Southwestern Pennsylvanians from Congressman Tim Murphy

Victories For Region’s Military 911th Staying Open

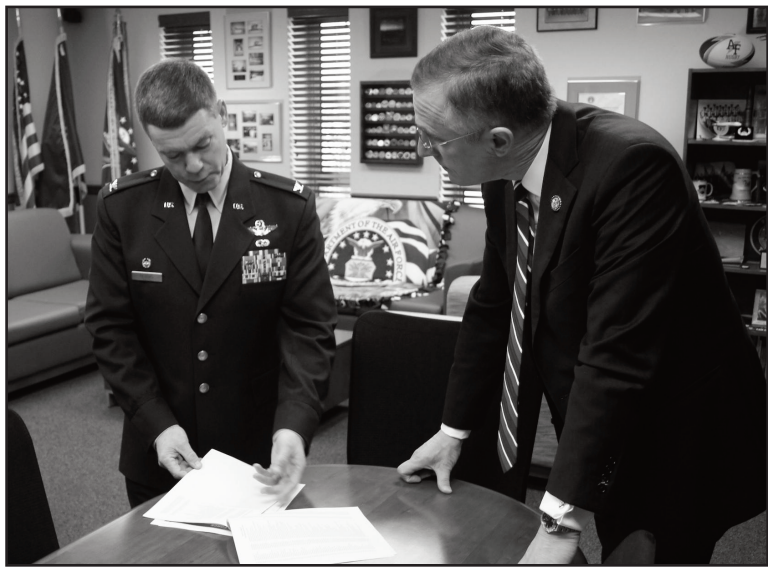
After successfully blocking the Pentagon from shutting down the 911th Airlift Wing in Moon Township, military families received welcome news when Congressman Murphy announced the base would keep its full flying mission, complete with eight C-130 transport planes.

The 911th has some of the lowest operating costs in the military — saving the Air Force \$100 million over ten years — because of its unique partnership with the Pittsburgh International Airport. The base also has an estimated \$127 million impact on the local economy.

News that the 911th Air Reserve base would remain open was also welcomed by local naval reservists. The Navy Reserve had begun constructing a new operations and support center on the grounds of the 911th.

The 911th is located adjacent to the 171st Air Guard Refueling Wing. In May, Murphy announced the 171st is among a handful of national bases selected to serve as the future home of the KC-46A, which is the Air Force’s next-generation tanker fleet.

Housing new KC-46As would likely result in the 171st serving as an “association base” with 200 new active duty Air Force stationed at the base.



Rep. Murphy and Col. Craig Peters, 911th Airlift Wing Commander, meet regularly to discuss the base’s unique military value, low operating costs, and economic benefit.

Last year, Congressman Murphy successfully blocked an effort by the Pentagon to transfer four tankers from the 171st as part of a force-restructuring plan.

Murphy said he would continue working with local officials and military leaders to strengthen the base to prevent any future attempts at closure. Towards that end, last month the House gave approval to legislation authored by Rep. Murphy that would force the Pentagon to conduct a transparent review of base costs before recommending a facility for closure — something that didn’t happen with the 911th. The issue is currently before the Senate.

To learn more, visit Murphy.House.Gov.

WHAT’S INSIDE

New military grocery store on way, pg. 2

House oversight work ramps up, pg. 3

Murphy’s energy agenda means jobs for the region, pg. 4

Washington D.C. Office
2332 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2301

South Hills Office
504 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 344-5583

Westmoreland Office
2040 Fredrickson Pl
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 850-7312

Facebook & Twitter
@RepTimMurphy

Stay up to date with weekly E-News. Sign up at Murphy.House.Gov

Tim Murphy
M.C. PRRSRT STD

United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
PUBLIC DOCUMENT ♦ OFFICIAL BUSINESS
This mailing was prepared,
published, and mailed at tax-
payer expense.

House Reviews Rep. Murphy Veterans Bill

Last fall, the VA healthcare system in Pittsburgh announced an outbreak of Legionnaires’ Disease. Five veterans died, and 21 fell ill over an 18-month period.

At the request of Rep. Tim Murphy, the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) conducted an investigation that revealed top VA officials knew about troubling levels of the waterborne bacteria in the hospital’s system, but did not take action to remediate the problem. An Inspector General report found the hospital failed to follow its own internal Legionella controls.

To prevent a breakdown in reporting so quick remediation can take place, Rep. Murphy joined with Rep. Mike Doyle (PA-14) in introducing the Veterans Administration Disease Reporting and Oversight Act. States require hospitals to report infectious diseases to local and public health agencies but these laws don’t apply to federal VA hospitals. Under the proposed bill, a VA facility would have to report these cases or face fines and civil lawsuits for failure to comply.



NEW COMMISSARY AND PX FOR VETS

Pictured above is an architect’s drawing of the new commissary and Post Exchange (PX) in Moon Township. The commissary is currently under construction, and a groundbreaking for the PX is expected in the fall. The grand opening for both stores could come as soon as June 2014. Rep. Murphy secured funding and approvals from the Pentagon to build the new facilities, which will provide discount groceries and goods to 168,000 local military families and veterans.

The Murphy bill was the subject of a recent legislative hearing at the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Meanwhile, an investigation into allegations of criminal behavior behind the outbreak at the Pittsburgh VA is ongoing.

In other veterans news, Congress is urging the White House to join efforts to eliminate the backlog of 900,000 veterans’ disability and compensation claims. In April, Rep. Murphy joined a bipartisan group of 25 House lawmakers seeking cooperation from the President in delivering the highest quality care and to improve the benefit delivery system for vets. Learn more at *Murphy.House.Gov*.

Murphy Makes Spending Cuts Top Priority

To keep spending in check, the government must operate on a tight budget and face real world consequences when spending targets are not met.

Since 2011, the House adopted a budget every year to pay down the debt, which now exceeds \$16.7 trillion.

The Senate went four years without enacting a budget to cut spending until House lawmakers forced action with enactment of the No Budget, No Pay Act. By withholding lawmakers’ pay, this measure forced the Senate to pass a budget and address the debt.

With more spending cuts forthcoming, efforts by House lawmakers are beginning to yield success. The Budget Control Act, which was adopted in August 2011, estab-

lished automatic across-the-board spending cuts, including more than \$85 billion this year. Those cuts are part of a \$2 trillion deficit total reduction package.

To stop Washington from spending more than what comes in, Murphy is a cosponsor of a Balanced Budget Amendment. This constitutional amendment prohibits deficit spending; forces the President to submit a balanced budget; and requires a 3/5 majority vote in Congress to increase the debt limit.

Concerned about the growth in spending, Congressman Murphy has opposed past spending bills like the \$862 billion “stimulus, a \$846 billion Cap-and-Trade energy tax, the \$1.3 trillion healthcare law, and the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout.

Do you have an issue with a federal agency?

Medicare Social Security Veterans Benefits

Rep. Murphy’s caseworkers can help.

Westmoreland: 724.850.7312
Allegheny, Greene, Washington
call: 412.344.5583

Congressional Oversight Ramps Up

From a lavish \$4.1 million employee conference in Anaheim, California to improperly targeting and harassing groups seeking tax-exempt status, House investigative committees have exposed scandal after scandal at the Internal Revenue Service.

The IRS controversy comes at a time when lawmakers are also reviewing other high-profile scandals including the deaths of a U.S. Ambassador and staff in Benghazi, Libya. A congressional probe uncovered a behind-the-scenes effort by the Administration to mislead the public about terrorist attack and the numerous security failures and lapses at the American outpost.

Oversight Chairman Tim Murphy emphasized the importance of congressional oversight to hold accountable all government officials, elected and appointed, who violate the trust bestowed to them when working in public office.

“Oversight by lawmakers not only ensures Executive Branch officials stay within the confines of the law, it also serves the American taxpayers by exposing waste, fraud, or outright illegal activity across the government,” said Murphy.

To strengthen taxpayer protections and hold the IRS accountable, Rep. Murphy sponsored the Taxpayer Nondiscrimination and Protection Act (HR 1950), making it a crime for IRS employees to target groups for discrimination. Under the bill, violators, including any member of the President’s cabinet who directs overtly political acts, will face fines and significant years behind bars.

Healthcare #RateShock In Store For Consumers

Individuals will pay \$1,700 more next year for health insurance, according to a new report by the Energy & Commerce Committee.

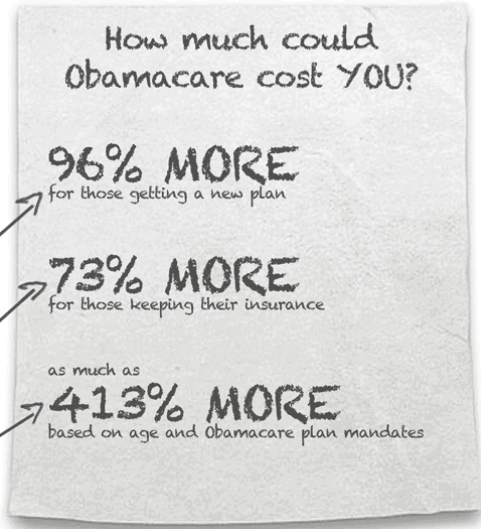
Based on internal data from the nation’s largest insurance companies, “The Looming Premium Rate Shock” shows consumers in the individual and small group markets will face premium increases between 100 and 400 percent.

The report was authored by Rep. Tim Murphy, Chairman of the Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. He has been examining how the new healthcare law will impact families, small businesses, and healthcare systems.

Under the Affordable Care Act, families and individuals are prohibited from

owning basic plans or catastrophic coverage only. Every plan must comply with identical rules, taxes, and mandates.

Murphy is working with his colleagues on meaningful reforms to the nation’s healthcare system so that you get the care you need, at a price you can afford from the doctor you choose without a government mandate that drives up costs. This month, Murphy introduced the bipartisan Family Healthcare Accessibility Act. The bill breaks down barriers preventing physicians and healthcare providers from volunteering at federally-financed community health centers (CHCs). By serving as a neighborhood medical home for 20 million low income Americans, CHCs save \$25 billion a year by reducing costly emergency room visits.



A new report by the Energy & Commerce Committee using data from 17 leading insurers predicts looming premium hikes for individuals and family policies. The full report is available at *Murphy.House.Gov*.

Trending Topics @ Murphy.House.Gov

Help reduce printing costs. Go to Rep. Murphy’s web site to learn more about these issues:

Strengthening Medicare: Murphy authored the Social Security and Medicare Protection Act to stop the Administration from spending your Trust Fund dollars on earmarks and new government programs.

Mental Illness & Public Safety: Oversight Chairman Murphy is auditing federal mental health programs to ensure tax dollars are spent to serve those patients most in need.

College Affordability: The House votes to stop student loan rates from doubling.

Education Policy: Learn about the future of No Child Left Behind.

Drug Supply Safety: Murphy’s committee exposes how a breakdown in FDA leadership contributed to the deadly fungal meningitis outbreak.

IRS & Your Medical Records: Is the IRS bound by the same health privacy laws as your doctor under the Affordable Care Act? Learn about Chairman Murphy’s investigation into the IRS seizure of 60 million patient medical records.